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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Rolf PFEIFER, Jialin SHEN and Didier von ZEPPELIN

Application No.: 10/781,304

Filed: February 18, 2004

For: PROCESS AND DEVICE FOR PRODUCING SOLID BODIES
BY SEQUENTIAL LAYER BUILDUP

Attorney Docket No.: 3926.067

Customer Number: 000041288

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the following documents for the above-identified application. Copies of the documents set forth below and listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and a copy of the German Office Action in the corresponding German Application in which these documents were cited, are provided herewith.

1. EP 0.925 169 B1
2. DE 198 13 742 C1
3. US-5,904,889
4. DE 101 29 305 A1
5. US-6,136,257

Document 1

Document 1 is in the English language. In the German Office Action Document 1 was cited as teaching a process according to the state of the art, without teaching that the particle layer, prior to activation of the adhesive, is exposed to ionic particles and thereupon flattened with an electrically insulated blade.

Document 2

In the German Office Action Document 2 was cited for teaching production of a 3D object by application of a powder material wherein, for minimizing formation of agglomerates, the powder is radiated with ions prior to application. Document 2 is the German priority application of Document 5. See Document 5.

Document 3

Document 2 is in the English language.

Document 4

In the German Office Action Document 4 was cited for teaching production of 3D patterns wherein the particles are of a non-agglomerating particle size. Applicants are not aware of any English language document equivalent to Document 4, other than an English language abstract which teaches: To produce three-dimensional models by laser sintering, a thermoplastic powder is used with a modified surface and a particle size of 5-250 μm . The particle surfaces are modified by physical treatment and/or reactive coating.

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Document 5

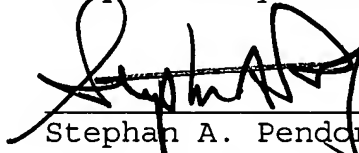
Document 5 is an English-language patent family member in the family of Document 2, DE 198 13 742 C1.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after three months from the application's filing date but before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, therefore no Certification Under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedated or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Applicant respectfully requests that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

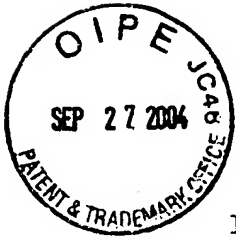
Respectfully submitted,


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Dated: **September 24, 2004**

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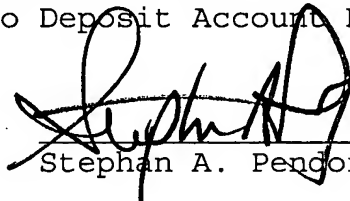
ATTY DOCK: 3926.067



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING AND AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE

I hereby certify that the foregoing INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT Form PTO-1449, including five (5) documents, for U.S. Application No. 10/781,304 filed February 18, 2004, were deposited in first class U.S. mail, postage prepaid, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on **September 24, 2004**.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0877.


Stephan A. Pendorf

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ Number ⁵ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T
		DE 198 13 742 C1	3/27/1998	Graf, Bernhard		
		DE 101 29 305 A1	6/18/2001	Podszun, Wolfgang et al.		
		EP 0 925 169 B1	12/19/2001	Bredt, James F. et al.		

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.